Contract for supply of parts of Bofors Gun

†2171. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the companies with which Government have arrived at agreement for the supply of parts of Bofors Gun and the details therefor;

(b) whether Government have wound up the agreement with few companies;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the companies with which agreement has been wound up; and

(d) with which companies Government have entered into new agreements and the details thereof indicating the terms and conditions and the difference between the two agreements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Snags in Trishul

2172. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether snags detected in 'Trishul" have led to putting the surface to air missile programme on back burner;

(b) whether two of the five tests conducted on Trishul missile failed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the sanctions imposed by the US leading to non-delivery of essential spares has led to the failure; and

(d) the extent of set-back suffered by the missile programme?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Trishul surface to air missile is being progressed as technology demonstrator, de-linking from the user services. While number of complex technologies and sea skimming capability have been established, the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

missile still needs to be proved for all its capabilities. These technologies will be useful in futuristic missile projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian agreement for acquisition of defence products

2173. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a protocol agreement with Russia for acquiring defence products during his visit there in January last;

(b) if so, the details of the deals firmed up with their values, delivery schedules, terms of payment etc.; and

(c) how these products compare with US, Korean and French products?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Raksha Mantri visited Russia to co-chair the Third Meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission held in Moscow from 15-17 January 2003. During this visit no 'protocol agreement' was signed with Russia for acquisition of defence products. However, Raksha Mantri signed a Protocol of the Inter-Governmental Commission on issues relating to the bilateral Military Technical Cooperation between India and Russia.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Defence production unit in Gujarat

2174. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Government of Gujarat for starting defence production unit in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what is the response thereon?